

**Phase 2 - Census 2000 Redistricting Data Program  
Voting District Project (VTDP)  
Additional Information**

**Introduction**

Participants in the VTDP have asked us about their ability to use line segments in the VTDP Annotation (1998) TIGER/Line® file or on the VTDP Annotation Map sheets that are no longer classified as visible features. We would like to clarify the use of features which may be viewed as not acceptable according to the VTDP Guidelines.

**Background: Recent Feature Changes in the TIGER Data Base**

The Census Bureau classifies linear features in its TIGER data base as unacceptable as boundaries for statistical or administrative areas, including voting districts (VTD), if they are not easily distinguishable by a Census Bureau employee doing field work. The feature network in TIGER is constantly being updated as a result of Census Bureau field operations and information provided to the Census Bureau by local governments and other participants in programs to keep the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF) and TIGER data base up to date. Features are added, deleted, and realigned as a result of these operations and programs.

Because the Census Bureau needs to provide block comparability between the 1990 census tabulation blocks, the 2000 census collection blocks, and the 2000 census tabulation blocks, once a feature is used as the boundary for a census block it is never truly deleted from the TIGER data base. Former block boundary features are reclassified using a different Census Feature Classification code (CFCC).

Many of the features in the TIGER data base qualified as Census 2000 collection block boundaries when collection blocks were defined in early 1998. Census 2000 collection blocks are used only for internal purposes and, except for participants in the Local Update Census Addresses (LUCA) program, were not designed for use outside the Census Bureau. We required the boundaries for Census 2000 collection blocks, with some exceptions, to follow physical features. Examples of collection block boundaries are: shorelines, most named roads, minor civil division (MCD) boundaries in some states, current boundaries of state, county, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, military installations, and national parks. In addition, physical features such as roads, rail lines, pipelines, fence lines, perennial and intermittent water features, were used as 2000 collection block boundaries when they also were 1990 boundaries for census tracts/block numbering areas, block groups, census designated places (CDPs) or census county divisions (CCDs) or if they were suggested and approved as a Census 2000 tabulation block under the Phase 1 - Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP).

**Creation of Census Feature Class Codes (CFCC) F83 and F84**

The Census Bureau reclassified census 2000 collection block boundary features that our field staff could not locate to CFCC F83 or F84. Since these features had already served as the boundary for a canvassed block in one or more field activities, it is necessary that the line associated with the deleted feature stay in TIGER. Only the label or CFCC used to describe the line changes.

For example, an A41 (neighborhood street) that was a 2000 collection block boundary, was reclassified as an F83 in TIGER if an enumerator found that the street no longer exists. Features that qualified as 2000 collection block boundaries but have since been significantly realigned or moved in TIGER, also may be reclassified as an F83.

***If, at the time of assignment of the tabulation block numbers in the Fall of 2000, a feature is still classified as an F83, it will not be held as a Census 2000 tabulation block boundary.***

Features classified as F84 are physical features, such as fence lines, that are 1990 statistical area boundaries (census tract or block group, for example) that the census enumerator could no longer locate during field operations. Any feature that was both a collection block boundary and a 1990 boundary of a census tract, block group, or other statistical area, and was not found by our field staff, also were reclassified as an F84. F84s do occur as boundaries in some water bodies. F84s in water may be used as a VTD boundary.

#### **Summary: State Legislative District (SLD) Boundary Features**

Any feature, regardless of its CFCC or color on the VTDP Annotation Map sheet, can be used as a SLD boundary. As we promised in the BBSP, if the line segment was added during the BBSP, even if it was not acceptable as a VTD boundary, it will be available as a SLD boundary.

#### **Summary: VTD Boundary Features**

If a feature is a SLD boundary, it also may be used as a VTD boundary regardless of its CFCC code or color on the VTDP Annotation Map sheet.

If a feature is in water, it may be used as a VTD boundary regardless of its CFCC code or color on the VTDP Annotation Map sheet.

If a feature is NOT a SLD boundary and not in water, it may be used as a VTD boundary if it has an acceptable CFCC code or appropriate color on the VTDP Annotation Map sheet. Since the conclusion of the BBSP, the Census Bureau has added many features or changed the classification of features shown on Census Bureau maps and in the TIGER data base.

To resolve features identified as unacceptable for a VTD boundary, participants must either utilize an alternate acceptable feature or request the feature be reclassified. If a feature has been identified with an unacceptable CFCC, but the feature does exist, the participant can provide evidence that the feature exists to the Census Bureau's Regional Census Centers (RCC) geographic staff. Evidence to confirm the feature must be in the form of imagery (for streets) or a map source accepted by the Census Bureau RCC. Upon confirmation by the RCC geographic staff, they will accept use of the feature as a VTD boundary and correct the CFCC of the line.

If you are submitting your VTDs using the equivalency file (EF) procedure, you may utilize all of the polygons in the VTDP Annotation (1998) TIGER/Line file. All VTD boundaries (perimeter features of polygons) in the EF that do not follow acceptable CFCCs (or an SLD) will not be accepted if the feature still has an unacceptable CFCC after the RCC has corrected the CFCCs from information provided by the participant. If the RCC identifies any VTD boundaries following lines with unacceptable CFCCs, the RCC will consult you on the selection of alternative acceptable features.

Once the RCC geographic staff has received the information (either as an EF or on maps) on the VTD delineations, they will insert the information into the TIGER data base. As necessary, CFCCs for features will be changed to reflect their SLD and/or VTD use. This information will be provided back to you in the VTDP Verification products (maps and/or TIGER/Line files).